

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 15-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarity and to even further distinguish over the applied references. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Thompson in the December 28, 2009 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,399) in view of Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035124). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Margalit and Tomita, alone or combined, do not teach and would not have rendered obvious "wherein the function implementing unit, after the instruction data is stored in the storing unit via the interface by the external personal computer without being recognized by the function implementing unit, automatically reads the stored instruction data via the interface," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action acknowledges that Margalit does not teach the claimed function implementing unit that automatically reads the instruction data, but relies on paragraph [0100] of Tomita for disclosure of the above feature (see page 4 of the Office Action).

As discussed during the personal interview and as asserted in the December 18, 2009 Amendment filed with RCE, the cited portion of Tomita merely relates to a copy job that is registered, as an unexecuted copy job, into a job management table 211 by a print controller 12 (see paragraph [0100] of Tomita). In registering the copy job, the print controller must recognize the contents of the copy job to define it within the job management table 211 for deferred execution. Therefore, Tomita does not teach a function implementing unit that, after the instruction data is stored in the storing unit via the interface by the external personal

computer without being recognized by the function implementing unit, automatically reads the stored instruction data via the interface, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Margalit and Tomita. Claims 6, 7 and 19, which depend from independent claim 1, are also patentable over the cited references for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Further, Margalit and Tomita do not teach the features of claim 20. Claim 20 recites "wherein the function implementing unit first recognizes the instruction data when the function implementing unit reads the stored instruction data via the interface after storing the stored instruction data" (emphasis added). As discussed above, Margalit is silent regarding the claimed function implementing unit; and Tomita merely relates to a device that recognizes the alleged instruction data when the instruction data is stored. Therefore, Tomita does not teach a function implementing unit that recognizes the instruction data when the function implementing unit reads the stored instruction data after storing the stored instruction data, as recited in claim 20. Claim 20 thus further defines over the cited references.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Yoneta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,699); rejects claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Murata (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,659); and rejects claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Yoneta and Murata. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

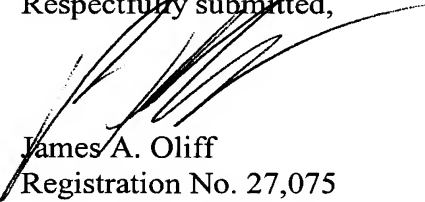
Claims 2-5 and 15-18 depend from independent claim 1, which is in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2-5 and 15-18 are also patentable for at least their dependency

on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Patrick T. Muffo
Registration No. 60,342

JAO:PTM/mcp

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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